



Sheetlines

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“The Patrick Welham Collection of New
Popular Maps”

Rob Wheeler

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The Charles Close Society was founded in 1980 to bring together all those with an interest in the maps and history of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and its counterparts in the island of Ireland. The Society takes its name from Colonel Sir Charles Arden-Close, OS Director General from 1911 to 1922, and initiator of many of the maps now sought after by collectors.

The Society publishes a wide range of books and booklets on historic OS map series and its journal, *Sheetlines*, is recognised internationally for its specialist articles on Ordnance Survey-related topics.

The Patrick Welham Collection of New Popular Maps

Rob Wheeler

In carrying out any investigation we tend to set bounds which we do not wish to go beyond. Sometimes we declare them, but often we take them for granted, and assume our readers do too. For example, the Hellyer & Oliver cartobibliographies limit themselves to the maps as they came off the printing press; they do not concern themselves with mounting and covers, even for 20th-century series where these aspects were undertaken by the OS itself and where most of the sales were in this form.

One reason for this is that maps were mounted in smaller batches than the print runs; consequently maps from a single print run can appear in quite a variety of covers. This is particularly true for the New Popular series, for which Keith Andrews identified no fewer than 41 styles of cover.¹ In no way daunted, Pat Welham sought to collect a specimen of each state of each sheet of the series in every possible cover. In fact he went further. By careful scrutiny of the marginalia, he identified substates within those that Richard Oliver had defined, and extended his aim to these as well.²

One bound which is almost universally respected by students of modern mapping concerns print defects. If they are gross, we may allude to them, but we do not (normally) seek to collect them; whilst the minor defects, the odd broken letter or superfluous blotch, we ignore altogether. We leave such things to philatelists.³ Pat refused to be limited in this way and paid particular attention to the National Grid paste-overs which were applied to the early sheets and which usually developed a number of print defects in the course of their print runs.

The study of the series was somewhat shaken up by a post on the *ordnancemaps* site by Richard Evans, asking why the Norwich sheet (126) sometimes was labelled 123 on the rear index map. The answer was that it was a print defect, and this led to a joint paper⁴ explaining how this had eventually been spotted and had been corrected, with certain other improvements being made to the index at the same time. While this subject was under investigation, Pat identified a dozen or more other defects that were sometimes visible on that rear cover (see Appendix). What is more, he expanded his collecting aims to include them. But when the paper was compiled, convention re-asserted itself: apart from the regrettable deterioration of '126' to look like '123' all other print defects were passed over and the paper concentrated on the deliberate changes that sought to improve the legibility of the index.

¹ KS Andrews, 'One-inch New Popular map covers distinguished', *Sheetlines*, 76 (2006) 14-28.

² See KS Andrews & PS Welham, 'More New Popular printings and other discoveries', *Sheetlines*, 88 (2010) 25-29.

³ For the student of early engraved maps, tracking the propagation of cracks in a copper plate can be a way of dating printings and observing when a plate has reached the end of its life. But the OS introduced electrotyping before any of its plates reached such a state.

⁴ KS Andrews & PS Welham, 'The New Popular index damaged, mended and improved', *Sheetlines*, 87 (2010) 44-49.

Undoubtedly this produced a more readable paper, but at the expense of ignoring a question that had been posed in correspondence. To explain that question it is necessary to explain the manner in which New Popular covers were printed. The *common form*, those things that applied to all sheets, was printed lithographically from red and black plates in very large print runs. Sheet-specific matters, like titles, were then added in letter-press. This printing - certainly the litho portion - was done '8-up', that is in large sheets each having eight copies of the cover. To produce the plates a master copy of the index will have been copied, by lithographic transfer, eight times. Any defect might be on the original master, or it might have occurred as part of the transfer process, or it might have developed in the course of these very large print runs on one or more of the replicates on the master. Thus the question might be posed as: "Is it legitimate to describe these covers by a single history? Do we not need eight parallel histories?"

If the OS had been considerate enough to label the replicates '1', '2', '3', etc, this question would be easy enough to answer; but it hadn't. Thus our evidence comes muddled together from eight different strands. When we say that the number '126' deteriorated to look like '123' and was corrected, do we mean that this happened in all of these strands, or in just a few? We do not actually know.

This is where Pat's careful examination of sundry other defects comes in useful, along with the analyses he carried out on them. He did not reach the stage of providing an answer but he progressed considerably towards it.

The first point to note is that we are dealing with common form, so the particular sheet number on a specimen is irrelevant. Pat was trying to collect each particular sheet, so he assembled quite large samples that can profitably be examined. The second point is that, although we cannot date individual cover printings in this era, the 'KA' cover-variants allow us to assemble a chronological sequence. That sequence is not perfect: the article pointed out that batches of covers printed with common form might not always be used in strict sequence. Furthermore, there is a degree of parallelism, with KA-2s running in parallel to KA-3s, not to mention paper and cloth covers. Nevertheless, the KA-numbers permit an approximate examination of the order in which things were happening. The third point to note is that, if a print defect occurs on or after the transfer process, it effectively serves to identify a particular replicate. One can identify three strong candidates for this function, those described by Pat as 'Foula', 'Appleby', and '5°2' (illustrated in the appendix). The first two are on the black plate, the third on the red plate but that is of little consequence. The reason we know that they must have occurred after transfer is that they never occur in conjunction; and the sample size is such that we would expect this to have happened had they simply occurred at random. Thus we can identify three of the eight strands during the critical period when the '126' issue was dealt with.

The table below lists the cover variants and also the form of the Norwich square encountered. Exact definitions are given in the appendix, but basically for '30' the number looks like 123; '60', '61' etc are different forms of 126. The figures in the last three columns are the number of sheets listed in the catalogue showing the defect in question. The table is limited to KA-3 covers; the numbers of KA-2s

and KA-4s exhibiting the defects in question is small and, as already observed, they tend to change in parallel to the KA-3s.

KA-	Norwich	'Foula'	'Appleby'	'5°2'
3.4	30	4	6	
3.5	30	9	21	14
3.6	30	7	7	12
	60	1		3
	62			1
	63		2	
3.7	30	1	6	6
	60	3		1
	63		1	
3.8	61	3	1	
	62	3		
	63		13	

KA 3.4 is the first of the cover variants that has the small circle for Bristol. This is a design feature and it is universal on these covers. The implication is that a new replication took place at the start of KA 3.4. The Foula and Appleby defects must have occurred in the transfer process or shortly after and lasted until the end of 3.8 when the Bristol circle returns to normal, implying that another set of replicates was produced. In contrast, '5°2' arose roughly as 3.4 was being superseded by 3.5 and must have been corrected as 3.7 was giving way to 3.8.

Where there is only one instance of a particular variant of 126 I am prepared to discount it. This analysis was based on the catalogue alone: the map may have been mis-categorised, or there may be a one-off anomaly in the printing that has caused confusion. But where a variant is confirmed by a second or third instance, I have to regard it as real. Thus I would describe the histories of the individual strands as follows:

'Foula' was converted from '30' to '60' during the currency of 3.6/3.7; it was then altered to '61' and then again to '62' (or vice-versa), which is rather odd.

'Appleby' was converted from '30' to '63' during the latter part of 3.6/3.7.

'5°2' was converted from '30' to '60' during the latter part of 3.6/3.7.

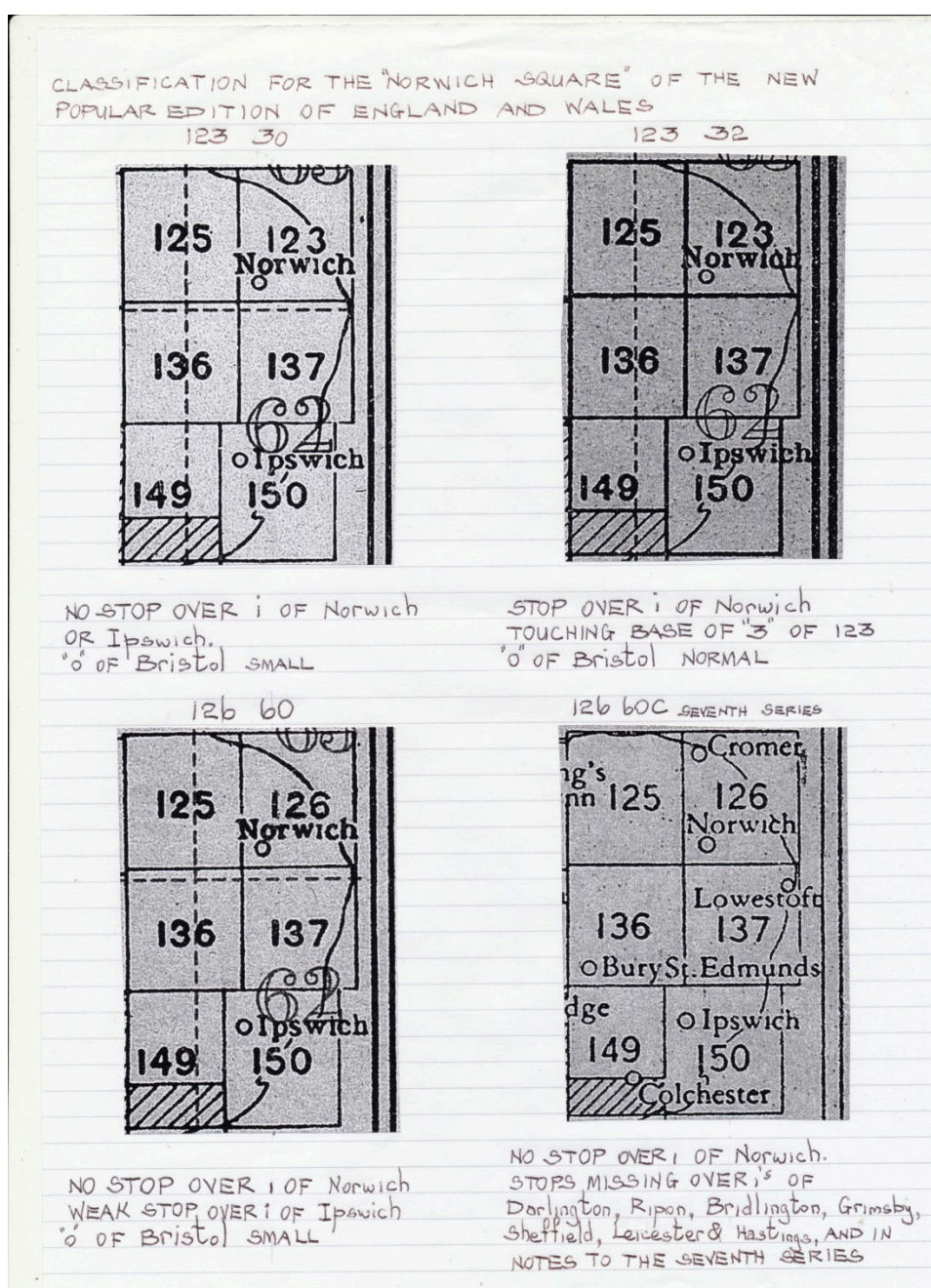
There is a fair measure of commonality here. For all three strands the '123' problem was addressed at about the same time; but exactly what the litho-writer did varied from strand to strand. This variation is perhaps unsurprising: it was not necessary that the litho-writer should produce exactly the same result each time, and with so tricky an alteration it would be unreasonable to expect him to.

Thus, while each strand does have its own distinct history, their alignment is sufficiently close to allow the conclusions set out in *Sheetlines* 87 to stand.

Undoubtedly there is scope for a great deal more work on this topic. One might ask how often and when this 8-fold replication took place and whether we can use other print defects to identify other strands within each replication ‘era’. Pat’s collection has been donated to Cambridge University Library where it complements their existing holdings of New Popular sheets (notably Keith Andrews’ collection). And I have no intention of doing any more on New Popular covers; so the field is wide open.

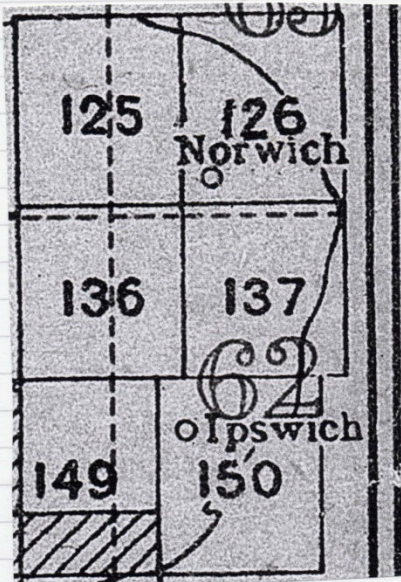
Appendix

The illustrations that follow provide definitions for the ‘Norwich square’ numbers and the various rear-cover print defects. They are taken from the short catalogue or, where they survived, from the master copies from which these were produced.

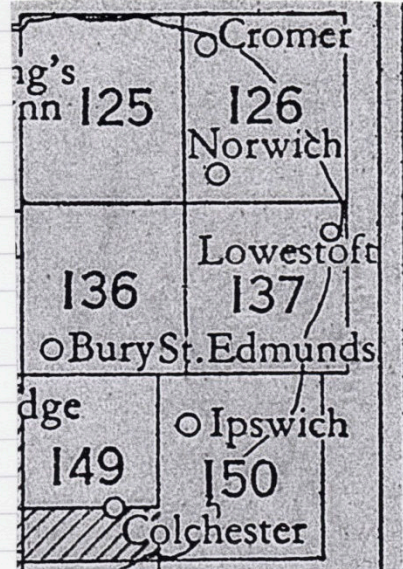


CLASSIFICATION FOR THE "NORWICH SQUARE" OF THE NEW
POPULAR EDITION OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

126 b1



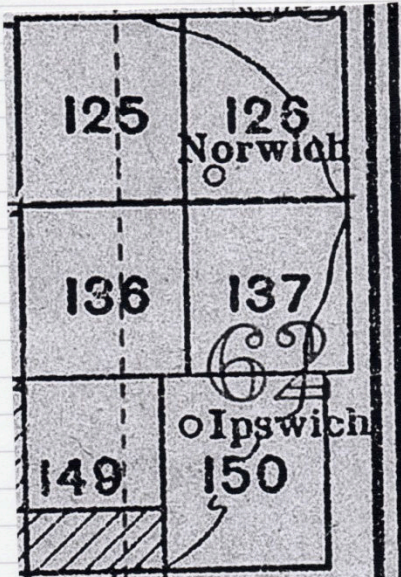
126 b1C SEVENTH SERIES



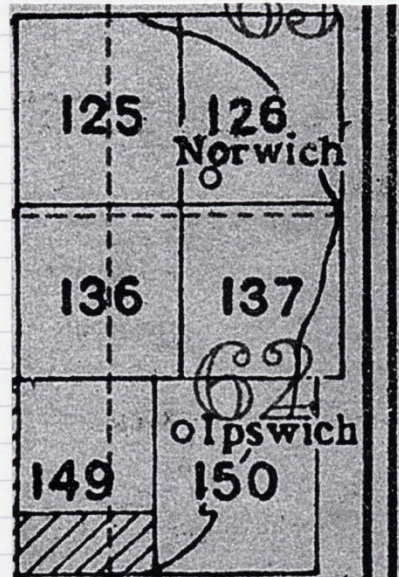
STOP OVER i OF Norwich BETWEEN
TOP OF i AND BASE OF "b" OF 126.
"o" OF Bristol SMALL

STOP OVER i OF Norwich BETWEEN
TOP OF i AND BASE OF "b" OF 126
N.B. MANY STOPS ARE FEINT

126 b2



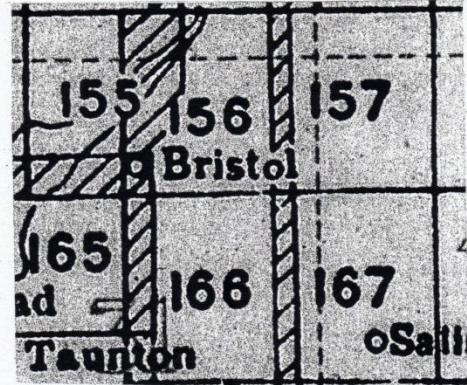
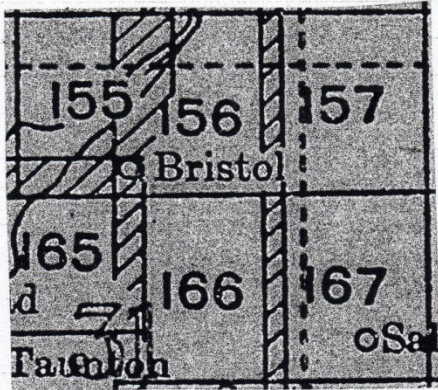
126 b3



STOP OVER i OF Norwich TOUCHING
"b" OF 126.
"o" OF Bristol NORMAL.

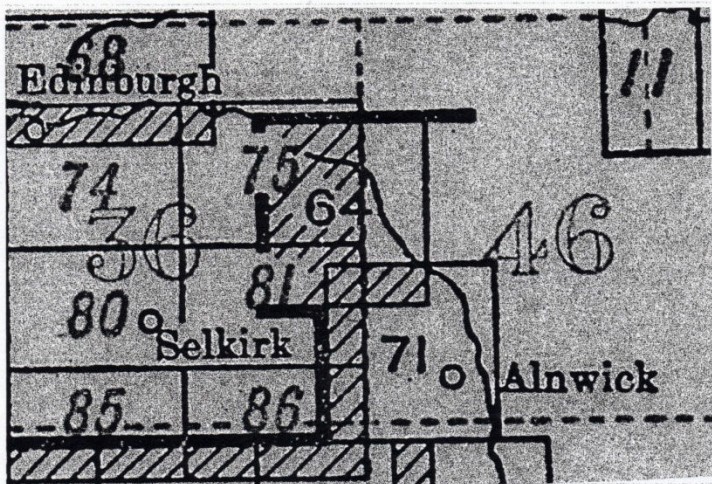
STOP OVER i OF Norwich TO
THE RIGHT OF 126.
"o" OF Bristol SMALL

MINOR VARIATIONS TO THE REAR COVERS OF THE NEW POPULAR EDITION OF ENGLAND & WALES.



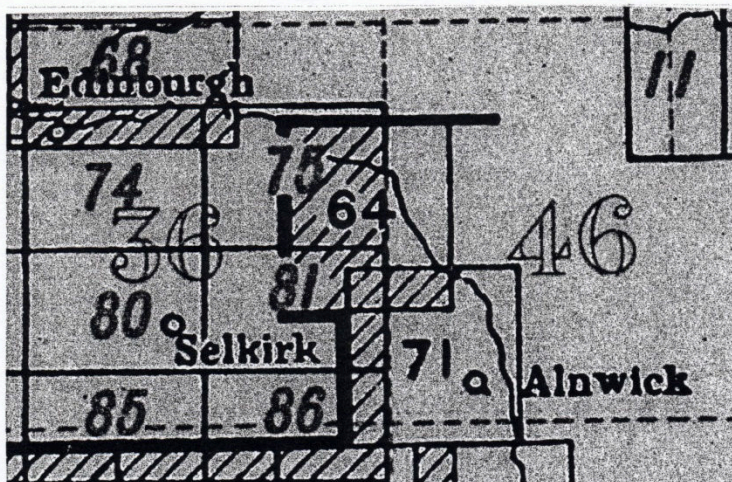
"o" OF Bristol NORMAL 3N

"o" OF Bristol SMALL 3S



Alnwick CIRCLE O
20

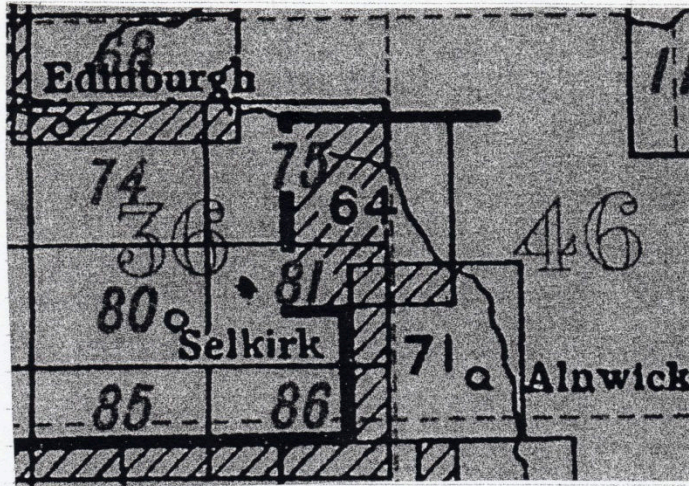
Selkirk UNDA MAGED
(NOT REPORTED)



Alnwick CIRCLE Q
AQ

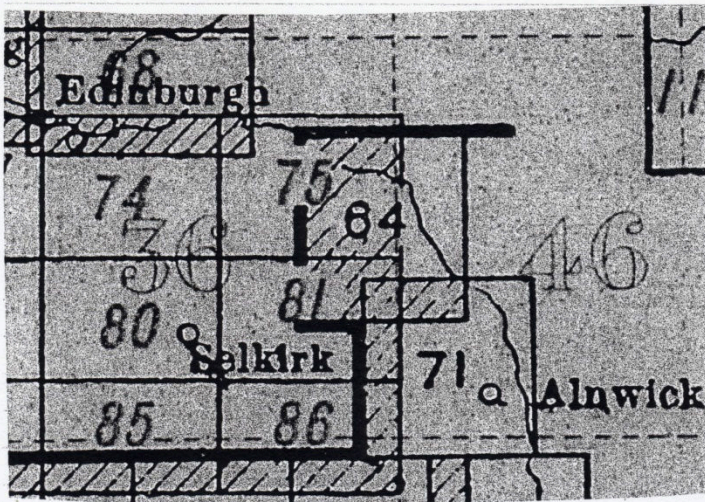
Selkirk UNDA MAGED
(NOT REPORTED)

MINOR VARIATIONS TO THE REAR COVERS OF THE NEW POPULAR EDITION
OF ENGLAND & WALES.



SMUDGE ABOVE Selkirk

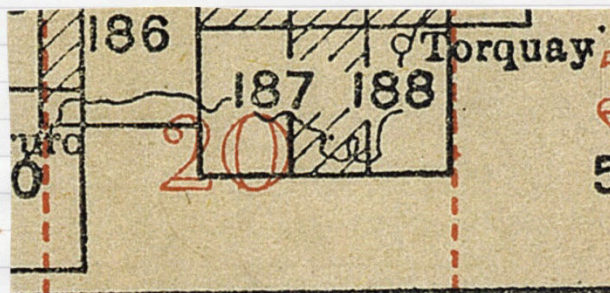
SA



SMUDGE BELOW Selkirk

SB

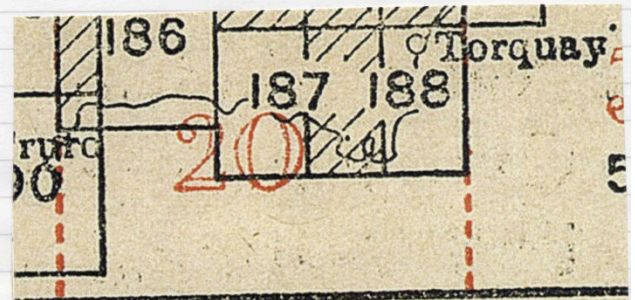
MINOR VARIATIONS TO THE REAR COVERS OF THE NEW POPULAR EDITION
OF ENGLAND & WALES



RED represent the
Authority of the M

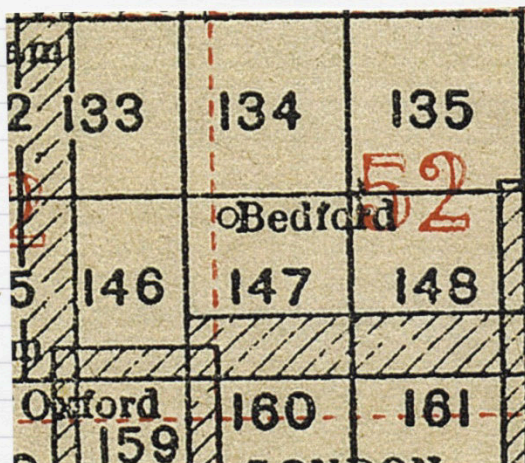
RED

BREAK IN "D" OF RED

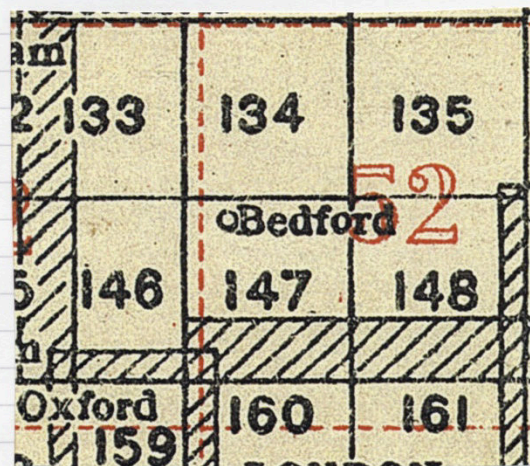


RED represent the
Authority of the M

NO BREAK IN "D" OF RED
(NOT REPORTED)



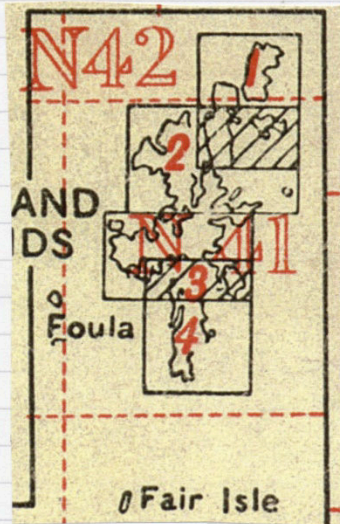
FT VERTICAL BAR THROUGH
"r" OF Bedford GRID 52



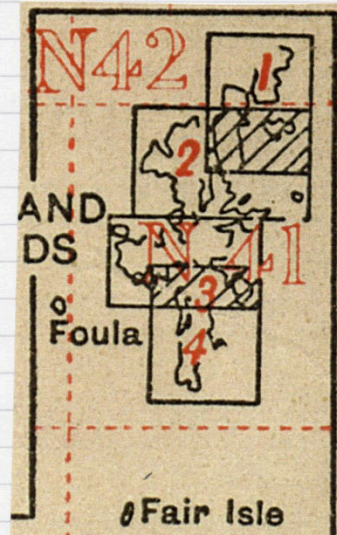
NO DAMAGE TO Bedford
(NOT REPORTED)

GENERAL TIDYING OF HACHURES,
NOTICEABLY "s" OF Leeds
"x" OF Oxford.

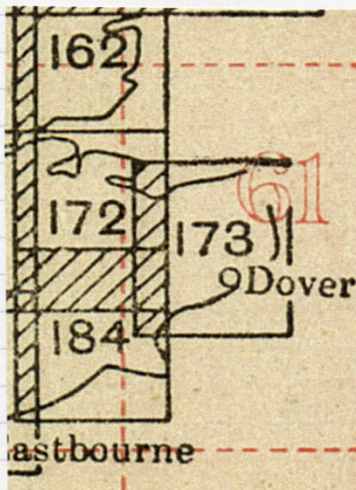
MINOR VARIATIONS TO THE REAR COVERS OF THE NEW POPULAR EDITION
OF ENGLAND & WALES



Foula
SMALL BLEMISH BELOW "F" OF
Foula

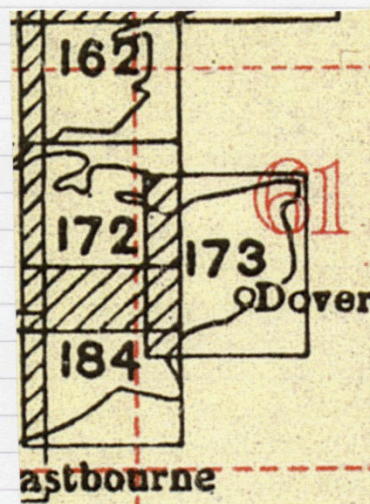


NO BLEMISH BELOW "F" OF
Foula (NOT REPORTED)



KENT COAST KC

BREAK IN SHEETLINE AND
COASTLINE.



NO BREAK IN SHEETLINE AND
COASTLINE (NOT REPORTED)

MINOR VARIATIONS TO THE REAR COVERS OF THE NEW POPULAR EDITION
OF ENGLAND & WALES.

d & Wales" or "Scotland."

f the Ordnance Survey,
Agriculture and Fisheries.

its and from most booksellers.

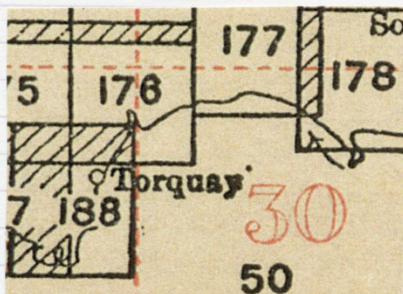
OX
BLEMISH BELOW "r"
OF OT

d & Wales" or "Scotland."

f the Ordnance Survey,
Agriculture and Fisheries.

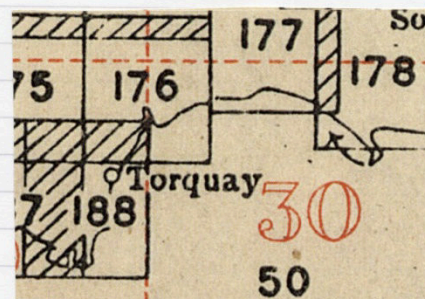
its and from most booksellers.

OR
NO BLEMISH BELOW
"r" OF OT



Torquay' Y

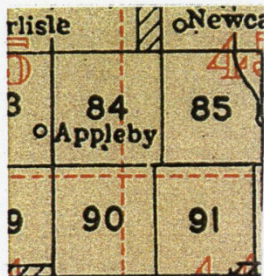
BLEMISH TO NE OF RIGHT
HAND FORK OF Y'
(VARIOUS MARKS CAN OCCUR
IN THE LYME BAY AREA)



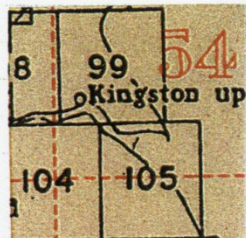
Torquay

NO BLEMISH
(NOT REPORTED)

MINOR VARIATIONS TO THE REAR COVERS OF THE NEW POPULAR EDITION
OF ENGLAND & WALES.



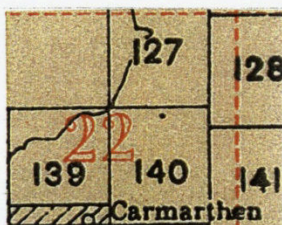
Blemish BELOW
Appleby, Appleby



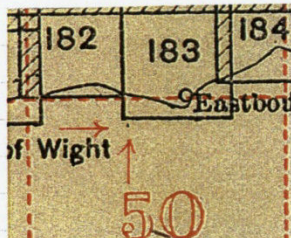
Blemish ABOVE 105
HUMBER



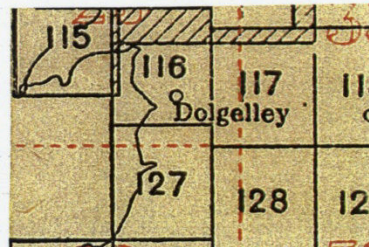
Blemish BESIDE .111
111



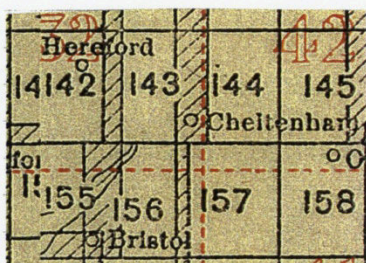
Blemish ABOVE 140
140



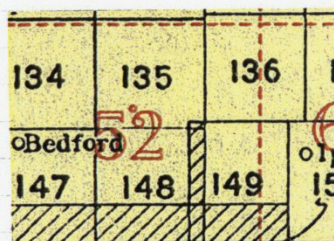
MINOR Blemish Eastbourne
Eastb.



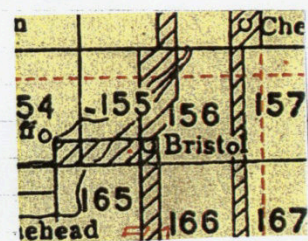
MINOR Blemish 117
Dolg.



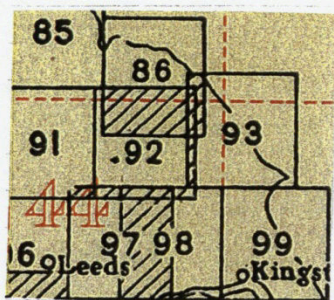
Blemish ABOVE 1 OF 144
144



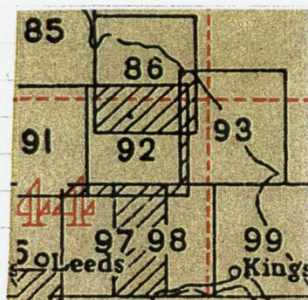
Blemish ABOVE 52
52



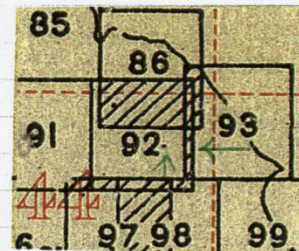
Blemish TO LEFT OF 155
155



Blemish TO LEFT OF 92
L92

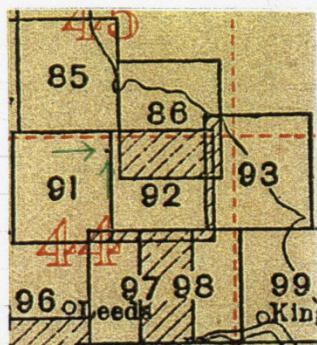


Blemish AMONGST HACHURES
92H

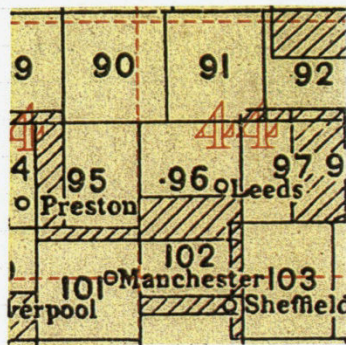


Blemish TO RIGHT OF 92
+ 92H 92R

MINOR VARIATIONS TO THE REAR COVERS OF THE NEW POPULAR EDITION OF ENGLAND & WALES



Blemish BY SHEET LINE 91/92
91'



Blemish TO LEFT OF 96
96



Blemish 165
165



Blemish IN HACHURES OF 184
184 H